

The Sun

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1910.

Published at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month, \$3.00
DAILY, Per Year, \$36.00
SUNDAY, Per Year, \$6.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$42.00
SUNDAY AND SUNDAY, Per Year, \$12.00
Postage to foreign countries added.
All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President of the Association, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street. Treasurer of the Association, M. F. Laiff, 170 Nassau street. Secretary of the Association, D. W. Quinn, 170 Nassau street.

London office, 11 Abchurch Lane, 1 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4. The daily and Sunday editions are sent by post to all parts of the world. The daily edition is sent by air to all parts of the world. The Sunday edition is sent by air to all parts of the world.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have their articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Mr. Taft's Special Message on Resources.

So far as President TAFT's special message of yesterday relates to the subject of conservation—that is, the protection of the resources of the public domain against waste or improper acquisition by private interests—it will be thoroughly reassuring to every citizen. The loyalty is absolute, the comprehension is perfect, the intention is unmistakable. The Government's property and the future of the "policy" are safe in Mr. TAFT's hands. The message is convincing as to the President's purposes with regard both to that branch of the business which belongs to Secretary BALLINGER, in the Department of the Interior, and those measures of conservation which are now in the hands of Mr. PINCHOT's capable successor, Chief Forester GRAVES. President TAFT is the official custodian of the policy to which the Chicago platform pledged his Administration, and he is manifestly capable of attending to the job.

Coupled with the conservation policy in the platform on which Mr. TAFT was elected is a declaration in favor of the development of waterways. It is important to remember the exact terms of this political obligation. The platform describes "the further duty, equally imperative, to enter upon a systematic improvement upon a large and comprehensive plan, just to all portions of the country, of the waterways, harbors and Great Lakes, whose natural adaptability to the increasing traffic of the land is one of the greatest gifts of a benign Providence."

In regard to waterways, it is possible that President TAFT is getting a little ahead of the platform. The systematic improvement of the rivers, harbors and Great Lakes, which are a benign Providence's gift to the nation, has been in progress for many years with an expenditure of many hundreds of millions of dollars. When the President indicates the scale of future improvement by recommending specifically the construction of fifty more Federal dams on the Ohio River alone between Pittsburg and Cairo, at an estimated cost of \$63,000,000, we are led to wonder whether the completion of the system, with equal justice and liberality to the waterways, the harbors and the lakes of all portions of the country, is going to bankrupt the nation in the process of symmetrical development.

Perhaps, after all, the conservation of the financial resources of the United States is not less important than that of its natural resources.

The Decline of Elmira.

Washington may be in a state of siege, the hordes of insurgents may sweep restlessly up the Capitol steps, but neither war's alarms nor the reverberating eloquence of the prophets of the new righteousness can avail to interrupt the tranquil progress of the Hon. JACOB SLOAT FARSETT along the honorable and even pathway of his genius. Each night, with complete disregard of all the day's turmoil, the Hon. JACOB sits down to compose for the Elmira Advertiser, that excellent journal which, to quote its own words, "covers the Southern Tier like the dew," a further contribution to English literature.

The latest authoritative utterance of the Hon. J. SLOAT FARSETT is before us at the moment. To be sure it does not bear his signature, but long experience has taught us to recognize his characteristic diction. He has just acquired a copy of the interesting work of Baedeker upon the United States. Instantly his mind turns to Elmira, and he opens the pages hastily, reads, and having read, writes:

"The book contains something over six hundred pages, and when we consider the enormous size of our country and the large space given to the description of New York and Washington, and a few other large cities we should perhaps be content that Elmira has nearly a page."

We agree with the statesman-editor that the showing is scanty. One page in six hundred devoted to the place where he resides, where he was born, seems to us at least inadequate. The Langwiler Hotel, for example, escapes the record of the erring German.

"This is not quite the way that an Elmira man would give the chief point about his home town," he writes with commendable restraint. Later he sets down the date of the publication, a date henceforth memorable in the whole Southern Tier, the year 1904. Finally, he closes his review with these eloquent words: "Truly the world ought to know what we realize every day, that Elmira is a pretty good place to live in."

We regret to say that we have not had a copy of Baedeker of 1904. To

our edition, that of 1900, however, we turned at once in the eager hope that the great injustice of 1904 had been here redressed. Alas! must we confess our sorrow, our indignation? What had been a slight has now become an insult. That page, that woefully inadequate page of 1904, has shrunk to five lines, to which in smaller type are appended three more, telling the misguided visitor how most easily, most expeditiously, most profitably, he can get out of Elmira. Five lines on a page of fifty lines, in a volume containing 688 pages—this is Baedeker's Elmira in 1909.

What explanation can there be for this shrinkage? What has happened since January 1, 1901, to reduce Elmira in the eyes of Baedeker, of the world, from a page to five pathetic lines? The Chemung flows on; the hills are above the flats, the Reformatory stands firm. What, then, has caused this tremendous metamorphosis? What is different now? We know of but one thing not now as then. In November, 1901, the Hon. J. SLOAT FARSETT was elected to the Fifty-ninth Congress to succeed the Hon. CHARLES WILLIAM GILLET, the sitting member. Can this be the explanation?

Canada's Naval Beginnings.

If it is true, as reported, that Sir WILFRID LAURIER can command enough votes in the Dominion Parliament to pass his "act respecting the naval service of Canada," Saskatchewan may rail but there will be a Canadian squadron, and in the nature of things, as such national enterprises once launched are not abandoned, but always expanded, there will be as the years go on a Canadian navy and a fleet. In the debates upon the subject a genuine national spirit as distinguished from mere colonial loyalty may be noted. The opposition to pledging Canadian ships to employment in any war that Great Britain may embark in has made its point; the naval bill provides that the Dominion Government may, not shall, place its ships at the disposal of the Imperial Government in an emergency.

Canada is to begin modestly as a naval power. The proposal to construct one or two Dreadnoughts was wisely rejected; that way would lie inevitable reinforcement of the British fleet in the event of war, and the coasts of Canada would be left unguarded. The better policy was to build cruisers and leave to England the responsibility of matching and watching the all-big-gun ships of an enemy of the first class. Besides if Canada must have a navy, for which so long as the United States upholds the Monroe Doctrine and in the last analysis must share the same destiny with Canada, there seems to be no real necessity, a squadron of swift cruisers would make a better nucleus than one or two leviathans.

The plans of the Dominion Government contemplate four cruisers of the Bristol type of from 3,500 to 4,000 tons displacement with a speed of twenty-five knots and two 6 inch and ten 4.7 inch guns, one of the Boadicea type, of about the same displacement and speed, carrying six 4 inch guns and torpedo tubes—such modern handy cruisers as England is now building, and six destroyers; in addition a naval college, at Halifax or Esquimaux we suppose. Having built and commissioned these minor cruisers and spiffies Canada doubtless will then yearn for battleships and battleship cruisers, and the budget will leap up by millions.

The State of Absecon.

It will not add to Governor FORT's peace of mind to learn of a movement to make Atlantic City a seaport. The Governor considers its morals bad enough now, and it is only a pleasure resort, consuming but a ton of liquor every summer day and a portion of a ton every winter day. The testimony about Atlantic City's liquor allowance was given during an investigation in August, 1908, Judge JOHN E. FOSTER of the Monmouth County Court of Common Pleas stating at the time that in his opinion the excise laws would never be fully respected or entirely obeyed, which was perhaps a euphemistic way of admitting that they were not at all respected and never obeyed.

Some thoughtful observers have maintained that the violation of the Bishops' law in Atlantic City was due to the daily receipt of a ton of liquor, more or less, and to nothing else. Struggle as she might, Atlantic City fell regularly every day. Presented by Grand Jurors and threatened with the National Guard, she remained shameless and incorrigible. There is no sterner moralist, no starker friend of virtue than Governor FORT, but he seems to have thrown up the sponge. In his message to the Legislature on Tuesday he reported that the State had been "spurned" by Atlantic City, and "the State seems powerless," said he, adding:

"A community that openly and intentionally violates the law, against the demands of the Governor, the instructions of the courts, the notice of the Attorney General, and the moral sense of the people of the State, is in a condition of antagonism that is anarchic in form and effect."

Such is Atlantic City as a mere pleasure resort with its innumerable "cafés" and many miles of boardwalk. What it will become and how it will be characterized by baffled and exasperated Governors if wharves are added to its boardwalks and a fine interior harbor, accessible through the Inlet, is filled with ships and bearded sailors, goodness only knows. It must be understood that nothing could be more serious than the scheme to make Atlantic City a seaport; although what is intended is the countenance of the Government engineers and an appropriation. It will have to be broken gently that Atlantic City hopes to rival Gloucester as a seat of the fishing industry. In fact, it is the cod fishers who are most active in the matter of making Atlantic City a seaport by dredging the Inlet and scooping out the harbor back of the beach. Three million pounds of fish are brought in every winter by the Atlantic City fleet, and the following testimony was given at a hearing on Thursday before the National Board of Engineers:

"At the present time Atlantic City fishermen catch more fish per man than do either the Gloucester, Boston or New York fishermen. Atlantic City, with its open way to the sea without danger of ice, could catch enough fish to keep down the price of food fish, which now soars with the freezing up of other less fortunate ports during the cold weather."

With Federal assistance, it is averred, Atlantic City would do a fish business of \$1,000,000 a year, fresh and cured. It is even intimated that the Navy Department would have in the Atlantic City deep sea fishing fleet a fighting reserve in time of need. Thus is the glory of Gloucester in peril of eclipse. In fact, much was made at the hearing of "the gradual decline in the fishing industry, both on the Newfoundland Banks and the sounds and banks fished by the New York fleets," and it was solemnly declared that "Atlantic City is now in the direct centre of the greatest fishing grounds left on the Atlantic seaboard."

So it seems to be Atlantic City's destiny to flourish by fish as well as by pleasure; but if the channels were deepened it appears that it would also become a trading port, for 15,000,000 feet of lumber and many cargoes of assorted freight are promised by the promoters. There would be a Greater Atlantic City with quays as well as wharves, counting houses as well as cafés, skyscraping office buildings as well as many-windowed caravansaries for housing and entertaining the pleasure seekers—a commercial as well as a joyous and wayward Atlantic City.

to England is manifest. Austria too, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has cause for alarm. We presume the present difficulty will be settled without any grave consequences, but at the least it adds one more difficulty to a situation already troubled past all apparent adjustment.

Sifting the Documents.

The mass of Government printed matter is beyond the calculation of any sane professional librarian. Continuing the "Descriptive Catalogue" of BEN PERLEY POORE the "Comprehensive Index" of JOHN G. AMES fills 1,500 close quarto pages with a skeleton record of titles, and this covers but the twelve years from 1881 to 1893.

Spasmodic efforts have been made to regulate the bulk of this output; economy has always found it the easiest place in which to begin. But after every such quantitative retrenchment each department head, each bureau chief, has returned with fresh vigor to make the literature of his country ostensibly for the better information of those who make its laws.

Now the publishing activity of the Government is to pass under qualitative examination. At the instance of Dr. JAMES of the Carnegie Institution Senator ROOT has introduced a bill to appoint a commission for the examination of public documents. The duty of the commission is to investigate all documents, to verify them as to the facts contained therein and to weed out those considered valueless.

It is a very rank growth which will confront Senator ROOT's commission. Much has come to official print that is no more than temporary and passing interest; much has found lasting record which was no more than interested testimony of which the credibility was not established by cross-examination. The greatest publishing house in the world is the Government of the United States, yet the imprint of the Government Printing Office carries no weight.

Still, we owe much to the Government Printing Office. From its presses have come priceless volumes of the highest reputation which private enterprise could never have accomplished. The Government awakens the admiration and the envy of the world for its lavish dissemination of the valuable results of scientific inquiry; but the press itself is a mere machine; it is not exactly well understood; it is, however, without reputation.

The purpose of Senator ROOT's commission seems to be to provide the Government Printing Office with that which it has always lacked, a competent board of editors. A bundle of rejection slips, a few instances of masses of manuscript declined with thanks, will go far to establish a fixed date beyond which Government publications will properly be considered the material of history.

Tunis and the Young Turks.

The other day a Turkish patrol on the Tunisian frontier of Tripoli fired upon a camp of French troops across the boundary. No one was injured, and the incident seemed to be without any importance until the French Government in making formal demand upon Turkey for a disavowal of this aggression also suggested a final delimitation of boundary between Tunis and Tripoli. Thereupon the Turkish Government seems to have opened a new Cretan Question by declaring that it did not recognize France in Tunis, but the Bey, who was a Turkish vassal.

The surprise and vexation of the French over this somewhat truculent manifestation of the Young Turks' foreign policy is not easily to be exaggerated. The French have been in control of Tunis for nearly thirty years. Tunis, in fact, was the French *quid pro quo* tacitly agreed upon at the Congress of Berlin when England's acquisition of Cyprus was planned. By the treaty of Bardo in 1881 the Bey of Tunis recognized the French protectorate and left to France the foreign relations of Tunis, becoming as a result a figurehead.

Since the taking of Tunis in 1881 the French have had at least one serious international quarrel as a result of their presence in this territory. The anger of the Italians at this seizure of a territory already appropriated by Italy in the dreams of her statesmen led to the formation of the Triple Alliance. The French fortifications at Bizerta were for many years regarded by the British as a menace to Malta and provoked much bad feeling, and were frequently the object of discussion in the critical days that followed the Fashoda episode.

French occupation of Tunis has been the most satisfactory page in French colonial history. Indeed, the word "Tunisianization" has been added to the vocabulary of international affairs as a result of the successful manner in which the French have developed the resources and increased the prosperity of this colony. To-day French railroads reach all the important inland cities, and the ports of Tunis, Sfax and Suse have a thoroughly European character in their harbor works. A French colony of above 35,000 people has been established in the Regency, and the European population of Tunis exceeds 100,000.

To the French, then, there is a potent cause for resentment in this attempt of the Turkish Government to question the accomplished fact. That the vassalage of the Bey of Tunis to the Sultan of Turkey has vanished long before French occupation of Tunis is the contention advanced by the French Government, and the fact appears to be that in 1881 there was no thought of any necessity of securing Turkish assent to the terms of the treaty of Bardo. The present content, therefore, has to the French a ridiculous lack of justification in fact.

Lack of justification in fact does not make the incident less annoying. That the Turkish Government can hope to expel the French from Tunis is palpably absurd, but out of this assertion of Turkish claims much disadvantage to France may flow. French influence at Constantinople, for example, which has recently expanded with the accession of the Young Turks, who have replaced the régime which sympathized with Germany, may easily be shaken. French prestige in the Orient also, which has been considerably reduced of late years, may suffer still greater diminution.

The true source of danger, however, lies in the effect of the Turkish protest upon the native population of Tunis, Algeria and Morocco. Religious rebellion in this region is never hard to stir. A war against the infidels, instigated at Constantinople, might easily cause serious fighting and draw from Europe French troops, and thereby weaken France in the present troubled state of European politics. That there could be any chance for successful revolt, is not possible to believe, but that a serious and extensive native uprising might follow is far from unlikely.

We shall be surprised if the French, and English too for that matter, do not suspect a German hand in this affair. What affects France in Tunis strikes with equal force at England in Egypt. If the Young Turks have determined to embark upon a foreign policy that shall revive lapsed titles to provinces formerly Turkish the menace to France and

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FEDERAL INCORPORATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The proposed Federal incorporation law contains an ingenious device, and the interesting question is presented whether this device is valid under the Constitution of the United States.

The United States Government is one of limited powers expressly enumerated in the Constitution or necessarily or properly implied from the powers that are expressly reserved to the States. No power is expressly given in the Constitution authorizing Congress to provide for or regulate manufacturing or trade within a State. These matters are reserved to the States, and the decisions of the Supreme Court clearly so hold.

If, therefore, the proposed Federal incorporation law should undertake to authorize the formation of a corporation to carry on manufacture and trade within a State as well as to carry on commerce between the States and with foreign nations and in Territories, &c., such a law would be objectionable as respects that part of it which undertook to deal with manufacture in a State and trade within a State. Therefore, apparently, the proposed incorporation law has been drafted so as to undertake to give power to create corporations for the purpose only of engaging in commerce between the States and with foreign nations and in Territories, &c., but not undertaking at all to authorize such corporations to carry on a manufacturing business within a State or engage in trade within a State.

Apparently it is perceived that a corporation formed solely for the purpose of engaging in commerce between the States and with foreign nations and not doing any manufacturing within a State or trading within a State might not be very desirable. This proposed incorporation act undertakes to provide:

Any corporation organized hereunder may acquire and hold not less than a majority of the capital stock of a corporation organized under the laws of any State or Territory engaged in the manufacture of any article or articles or commodities which the corporation formed under this act uses or proposes to use in the interstate or international trade or commerce conducted by it. But no corporation formed pursuant to this act shall acquire or hold stock in any other corporation otherwise than as above provided.

This clause thus undertakes to give to the Federal corporation the right to own a majority of the stock of a State corporation organized for the purpose of manufacture within a State. This device is ingenious. The question arises whether it is valid under the Constitution.

If under the Constitution Congress may not provide for creating a corporation itself directly to engage in manufacture and trade within a State, may it provide for the creation of a corporation which shall indirectly through the ownership of a majority of the stock of a State corporation control and direct such manufacture and trade within a State? Suppose a State should pass a law that the shares of stock of corporations doing a manufacturing business wholly within its borders should not be held by Federal corporations? Can there be any doubt that such a provision in a State law would be valid as against the above quoted provision in the proposed Federal incorporation law? But it is well settled doctrine that the provisions of a Federal law, passed within the powers conferred by Congress, constitute the supreme law of the land, any State Constitution or law to the contrary notwithstanding. Does not consideration of these questions tend to show that such a provision in the proposed incorporation law is not within the expressed or implied powers of the United States Government?

Some one might suggest that if the States do nothing in the matter, but by silence apparently acquiesce in such a provision in the incorporation law no question could arise. It may well be questioned whether such a suggestion meets the difficulty. When the courts come to construe such a clause in the Federal incorporation law, as they might be called upon to do in any case arising between private individuals, the question might be raised whether such a clause was within the powers, expressed or implied, conferred upon the Federal Government by the Constitution.

HARRY HUBBARD.

New York, January 14.

Rip in Up.

From the Newburgh Journal.

With all due respect to our esteemed contemporary, the *Newburgh Journal*, we beg leave to differ. We may have been asleep, but just at present we are very, very much awake.

Here on the hills of Newburgh one's vision is clearer than in the city of our cant and we see many things. We see the constant denunciation of men and affairs which seems to be the chief aim of those who live in the greater city has had its effect and has stirred up what seems to be a revolution, but what in our judgment is but a temporary lull, serving only in the end to accentuate the fact that the desire for organization, despite traitors within the ranks, will only become stronger by reason of the conditions which exist to-day.

We are not asleep, but hopeful.

The Manhattan Philosopher on Clerks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Poor "Taxpayer" in this morning's *Sun* makes the very common mistake of thinking that we all hold the commercial positions that nature fitted us for. The fact is that practically all of us hold our different positions owing to chance, or accident. There are thousands of clerks who are fitted naturally for more lucrative positions, and thousands of highly paid men who are really mentally fitted to sweep the streets, &c. Besides, a clerk really does some valuable to the community as does the banker or big railroad man. There are many "big men" now who have been previously "small clerks." E. H. J.

New York, January 13.

A Life Chance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: From the shores of Evening Bay and the pages of the *New York Evening Day* comes the following opportunity:

"A LIFE CHANCE.—A suitable, thrifty tenant, for one half of a house. Fine anchorage for boats; three minutes to ferry; only adults that are wanted. The rent is \$10.00 per month. Address: A. Frazier, Groton, Conn."

Would you really and truly care to take a chance? H. C. C.

New London, Conn., January 13.

Municipal Wages in Nottingham.

From the *Daily Consular and Trade Reports*.

Night watchmen about the city property receive 5 shillings (75 cents) for 12 hours, equivalent to 4 pence (10 cents) an hour. Street laborers receive 4 pence (10 to 11 cents) an hour, laborers for the waterworks 10 cents, and those in other departments 10s to 12 cents an hour.

Street car conductors are paid no more than laborers (10s to 12 cents) an hour, while they receive the maximum rate of 12 cents an hour. Motormen are paid a shade more.

Of the policemen 4s 6d of 300 receive less than 12 cents an hour in cash, but an allowance for boots and uniform and an allowance from a fund for their benefit slightly advances their hourly compensation. The pay of the police force works out a week from \$6.25 to \$9 a man for seven days work, with 21 days vacation each year.

Reform Triumphs in South Carolina.

From the *Columbia State*.

WISDOM OF CONGRESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: May I suggest that recent conduct of the national affairs of the country has not been of a character to encourage the belief that management of the domestic affairs of the several States would be satisfactory if taken possession of by Congress, now engaged in so many influential quarters?

What does the unseemly wrangling over the bestowal of national patronage on insurgent Republicans indicate? Congress has power to dispose of all the lands and regulate the forests, mines, navigable rivers and other property of the United States in the States, Territories, colonies and dependencies. Is execution of that power and responsibility well done? What might happen if Congress could clutch the additional jurisdiction now in the hands of the State Legislatures? The increased cost of living that has been contemporaneous with new tax laws by Congress enacted or proposed has excited discussion of the connection between that tariff and internal revenue taxation and that enhanced cost.

Great and disturbing as existing evils may be that come of trusts, monopolies, restraints of trade and stupid methods of taxation, all of which are remediable, are they comparable to the irredeemable evils that would flow from an over-extended system of government, State and Federal? IGNORUS.

MORRISTOWN, JANUARY 14.

YARDAMAN.

Said to Be Opposed by a Combination of Officeholders.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Apparently the Hon. James K. YARDAMAN is opposed in his Senatorial ambitions by the same officeholding ring that compassed his defeat in 1907. In that year he was antagonized in the primaries by John Sharp Williams and beaten by only three or four hundred votes. It must be that the result startled and alarmed the cabal. Even the great John H. Sharp, defeated by an emancipated margin. The lines must therefore be drawn tighter, the serried front of the trenchermen more rigidly closed up.

This, it seems, has been achieved. The followers of the late Senator McLaurin, of Williams, of the Hon. Hernando De Soto and of the Hon. John C. Calhoun, and of all the smaller incumbents, beneficiaries and agents of the machine, are arrayed against YARDAMAN. It is hard to say at such a distance from the scene what animating sentiment informs this bitter battle. Senator-elect Williams appeared in the Mississippi capital a few days ago and told everybody who cared to listen that YARDAMAN, having been defeated at the primaries in 1907, should not run again, it being evident that the people of Mississippi did not want him. Nevertheless the people of the State are now told that YARDAMAN, John Sharp Williams, and perhaps if that eminent statesman hadn't dropped so much tobacco juice on his clothes and worn such baggy trousers and generally played the Bryan "hill billy" with effect the upshot might have been very different. At any rate the machine is now telling the Legislature and not before the people. Mr. Williams' criticism therefore seems to be in sad need of a solid location.

It looks as if the combination were too strong. YARDAMAN is too clean in his habits and too honest in his character to be Governor to obliterate the Mississippi night riders, he put too many lynchings in jail, he threatened at too many points and with too much potency the structure of the lawless organization in his State. History will disclose these facts, and meanwhile I can only hope that the consummation will be Mississippi.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 14.

AMATEUR HOG RAISING.

The Profitable and Satisfactory Experience of a City Farmer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am "one of them city farmers" who "take to farming." I raised two hogs last year, not, however, to be disposed of to the local butcher, but to supply the town family with pork, &c., for winter use. In May last I purchased two likely shoats, April litter, and in June I had them mated. I put them in a good root therein until late fall, being fed meanwhile on table leavings, potato parings, sour milk and the usual refuse of a house which can be put to no better service than throwing to the pigs.

At the end of October the feedings of rye and a little corn were given, and three weeks before "killing" time the swine were penned in and "fired" in the same farrow. The raising was continued for about three weeks, during which time about three bushels of corn for the two hogs and a constant ration of wheat. Now, I worked out the cost as follows:

Two pigs, first cost	\$7.00
Wheat (one bushel, farm grown)	8.00
Corn and attendance	4.00
Feeds on about 200 pounds shipped to FORT house	1.50
Total	\$20.50

At the end of the year I sold the two hogs separately the weights of which were 150 and 175 pounds, and the two pigs weighed 45 and 55 pounds (including the piglets) of most excellent quality. I have sold over the family butcher a monthly charge book and discover that no pork meat has entered the house that has not cost me 20 cents a pound. I have also sold the hams and knuckles, which are sold by the piece, while loins have ranged from 24 to 28 cents a pound. I have also sold the pork, which cost 20 cents a pound in New York city, for 20 cents; the hams, which cost 20 cents a pound, for 20 cents; the knuckles, which cost 20 cents a pound, for 20 cents; and the piglets, which cost 20 cents a pound, for 20 cents.

Now, I will tell you "There's nothin' in raisin' hogs."

HOGS FOR PROFIT.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 14.

BUCKWEAT CAKES.

The Pure Food of the Good Old Days, and How Do You Get It?

TO